/73 cont./

123 [249] Tumayaua had me plant tobacco in front of his house, a proposal that astonished me somewhat until I realized that with my assistance he anticipated an excellent harvest or quality; hence I asked only that he start it, and then I crushed the capsules and put the seed into the ground, as though I had been a tobacco planter all my life. [226] [177] With Kulekule I had to go to the cataract below the village and help him with the fishing rod; he must not suspect that I had not swung this implement since grammar school days, when I had trouble rescuing it from the police.

226 123 One forenoon we took a very pleasant fishing excursion with half a dozen persons, among them a few women, to the saímo, a pond that lay in the campo about two and a half kilometers from [301] [412] the village. We walked a short distance through the woods, the women carrying fishing baskets and weirs, Paleko with a section of fish teeth on a string around his neck, and under his arm a stone ax that he had sharpened on a stone at the river, during which he [271] moistened it with saliva at his mouth. Meanwhile it was amusing to see how my intended and her sister drank out of the Kulisehu: mouth in water, supported on their two little hands, one leg in the air, not unlike young monkeys. On the way we sang together our ohohó ohohú hu in restrained tones, and I disturbed the morning quiet with a few louder songs. Alakuai took the liberty of removing my hat, but he was so happy with this adornment that in the name of all the saints I exposed my head to the pitiless campo sun.

226 Far away, to the edge of the wooded shore, stretched a queimada /burned clearing/ covered with fresh grass; only a single shade-giving tree stood beside the pond. In the middle of the knee-deep swampy water were set three weirs, half of which, with their mouths, protruded out. Then, with the fishing baskets, kútu, which had the shape of a blunted cone open at the top and bottom and were put together out of thin, pointed sticks, /74/ several persons walked through the pond in a bent position and stabbed the ground quickly: the kútu were inverted over the little fish and the latter pulled out from the top with the hand and placed in a hanging basket. After they had been working in this fashion for a while, they converged from various sides toward the center, where the weirs lay,